Department (IMD). Weather messages are broadcast by the coastal radio stations for all mariners at sea, while local weather warnings are relayed through port organisations along the coast. In addition, Indian Navy also broadcasts normal weather messages to all ships twice daily from its wireless stations. In case the weather deteriorates or a cyclone develops, this frequency of transmission is increased.

(e) Not applicable.

Conveyance allowance to army personnel

4622. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases with regard to the payment of conveyance allowance to army personnel for attending resettlement, courses attached to them before retirement where pre-boarding/ lodging was not provided which are pending with Government for settlement;

(b) whether they have been granted NRA for the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in settlement of such claims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Task forces for defence design

4623. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Defence Research and Development Organisation have decided to set up a number of task forces to work out a joint partnership in defence design, development, production and marketing of products; and

(b) if so, the details of the task forces indicating the areas of cooperation to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Six task forces have been constituted by the Ministry of Defence to submit recommendations to enhance partnership between the Defence Ministry and the Industry.

(b) These Joint Task Forces have been constituted to submit recommendations in the following areas with a view to enhance the partnership with the Industry:—

(i) Defence-Industry Long Term Partnership.
(ii) Commercial Process.
(iii) DRDO-Industry Partnership.
(iv) Private Sector Undertakings/ Ordnance Factories/Private Sector complimentary.
(v) Defence Export Strategy.
(vi) Information Technology for Defence.

Modernisation of Fire Services

4624. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has come from Andhra Pradesh for modernising and expanding fire services;

(b) whether there are some Central Government schemes to finance the development of fire services; and

(c) if so, the details of schemes and finances offered to State Governments to upgrade their fire services?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 8000.00 lakhs for the States for upgradation of their fire services. The share of Andhra

Pradesh in this regard is Rs. 400.00 lakhs. The Central Government also arranges loans through the General Insurance Corporation of India for development of State fire services, whenever such requests are received from the State Governments. According to available information, loans for the State Government of Andhra Pradesh were also arranged in the past.

Special Investigation Agency

4625. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to set up a Special Investigation Agency to look into the growing crimes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

4626. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to track down conspirators responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the basis of Jain Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken and the names of the conspirators; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Final Report of the Jain Commission of Inquiry is under examination by the Government and the Report as well as Memorandum of Action Taken thereon will be placed in Parliament soon.

ISI Agents in States

4627. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Pioneer', dated 23rd March, 1998, under the caption "ISI agents turn Indians to fool authorities";

(b) if so, what are the details of such agents operating in each State; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check their infiltration and operation in our territory?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

Following the civil strife in Afghanistan, a large number of Afghan nationals have been coming to India as refugees. In addition, a number of Pakhtoons have also been staying in India with an undefined status. As the situation in Afghanistan continues to be fluid, some of the Afghan nationals are reported to have fraudulently acquired Passports, Identity Cards etc. However, Government has no information regarding their working for Pak Intelligence Agencies. Similarly, the contention in the news article that there are over 10,000 Pak ISI agents operating in the North Eastern region of the India is highly exaggerated. Also there is no information regarding concentration of ISI agents in Tinsukia region of Assam.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to check illegal infiltration across our border. Border vigil and patrol have been intensified and fencing and flood lighting have been provided in sensitive areas like Punjab and Rajasthan. The State Governments are also sensitised from time to time and there is a coordinated effort among various security and intelligence agencies to check illegal infiltration in the country.